

63-4514

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS and SPACE COUNCIL

NASA REVIEW COMPLETED

WASHINGTON

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

May 31, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR

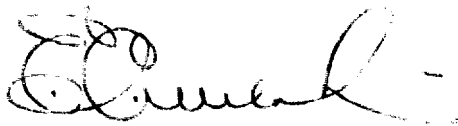
Honorable John A. McCone  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Chairman USIBoard

Subject: Discovered Fragments of Space Vehicles

This office was asked some time ago to coordinate the preparation of a public announcement and an internal (classified) document to fix responsibilities and to outline procedures regarding the subject matter. To this end, my memorandum to Lt. General Carter, dated November 28, 1962, provided draft documents and set forth the status of the project at that time.

On March 1, a revised classified internal paper (Tab A), which has had top-level Defense clearance was provided, but we now understand it has not been coordinated within the intelligence community.

It is requested that the draft paper Tab A--the internal procedural paper--be given consideration. We were advised by General Carter, under date of December 7, 1962, that the matter would be given prompt USIB attention. Considerable time has now elapsed, and it would be deeply appreciated if we could obtain a favorable reply on this matter.



E. C. Welsh

(Defense Draft of  
March 1, 1963)

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GUIDELINES FOR INTERAGENCY HANDLING  
OF SPACE VEHICLE FRAGMENTS

1. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is designated as the agency responsible for receiving and identifying fragments, or suspected fragments of space vehicles of all types, including the contents thereof, which fall upon the territory of the United States or which otherwise come into its possession, except that the Department of Defense (DoD) is solely responsible for receiving and identifying fragments from vehicles launched by the DoD.
2. In the event NASA should come into possession of space fragments under the sole and exclusive responsibility of the DoD, NASA will deliver such fragments as expeditiously as possible to the DoD.
3. To insure prompt analysis for intelligence purposes, NASA and other U.S. Government agencies will deliver to the DoD as expeditiously as possible and on a priority basis fragments (including whole vehicles) which are readily identifiable or suspect as coming from vehicles launched from foreign countries. Such foreign fragments which come initially into possession of the DoD will be retained by DoD for analysis. Such analysis of foreign fragments will be completed expeditiously, and thereafter such fragments will be placed in the custody of NASA, pending final arrangements for their return to the launching country or for other appropriate disposition.
4. All other fragments will be retained by NASA pending agreement as to disposition.
5. NASA may continue to use the Smithsonian Institution for collection and analysis of fragments by contractual arrangements, and may also make appropriate arrangements for assistance with private agencies.
6. The DoD will notify NASA when deorbits are expected and when collection teams have been alerted to obtain the deorbiting fragments. Also, DoD will inform NASA of the results of such collection efforts whether successful or not.

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